

# EUDORA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



*April 2011, Vol. 24*

Written & edited by Ben Terwilliger

## **‘The Times They Are A-Changing’**

Big and exciting changes are underway for the Eudora Area Historical Society in 2011 as we celebrate the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Historical Society’s establishment. The biggest change will be the move of the Museum and archival collections to a new location.

The old Eudora High School and Middle School on Main Street has been an adequate home for the EAHS for the past several years. Many members have dedicated countless hours to turn the old classrooms into a Museum. However, there is little debate that the conditions at the old High School are far from ideal. Especially when considering most of the important historical artifacts and archives that can be found in Eudora are housed by the Historical Society. The old High School has unreliable heating, no air-conditioning, many leaks and lacks visitor-friendly amenities like proper lighting and bathrooms. Ideally, all of the artifacts and archives should be housed in more stable conditions. We expect our new home to be a much friendlier environment for the artifacts and archives, but perhaps most importantly, for the visitors as well.

Where will our new home be you might be asking? At this point, it is likely that we will move into classrooms at the old Nottingham Elementary School on Church Street. The City of Eudora with the Eudora School District has worked well together to assure us a new and safe home. We will

likely be moving to Nottingham Elementary in May, or June at the very latest. As we learn more details about the move, we will keep you informed. The City has graciously offered to assist with the move in any capacity. However, it would also be wonderful if any members wanted to help with the move. Please contact Ben Terwilliger at 785-542-4111 or by email at: [bterwilliger@cityofeudora.com](mailto:bterwilliger@cityofeudora.com) if you are interested in assisting us with the move.



One of the best ways to foster the identity of a community is by understanding and embracing its history. It is a responsibility of the EAHS to help Eudorans understand their community’s unique and important history. We will be able to better serve this aspect in our new home. However, it is also hoped that the EAHS will hopefully return to Main Street and downtown in the near future.

## **City of Eudora Hires Intern for Eudora Area Historical Society**

The City of Eudora has hired Ben Terwilliger to help assist the Eudora Area Historical Society. Ben is in the Museum Studies Graduate Program at the University of Kansas. He has previous experience working with the Kansas State Historical Society, the Watkins Museum and Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

Ben has been active with organizing, cleaning and accessioning the artifacts and archival collections. Eventually, the records created during this process will be added to a digital database. This database will allow the public an easy way to access the collections. Ben is also making sure the artifacts and archives are housed and preserved properly. New Museum guidelines are also being developed by Ben and other members of the Historical Society.

Ben is also helping the EAHS reach out to other area historical organizations, including the Douglas County Historical Society, Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and the Kansas State Historical Society. Through partnering with these organizations, the EAHS will be able to develop events, programs and standardized Museum policies. Eventually, Ben would like to help the Museum develop new exhibits, labels, events and standards-based tours for school groups. Essentially, Ben believes since Eudora's history is so unique and fascinating, that the EAHS should play a very active role in the future of Eudora.

## **Increased Hours of Operation**

The Museum at its current location is open most Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am to 5:00pm. It is also open the second

Saturday of every month from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The Museum will likely be open even more frequently in the summer at its new location. If you want to schedule a tour for another time, please contact Glenn Wineinger at 785-542-2210 or Jim Harris at 785-979-8912.

## **Come and Visit!**

Please take advantage of the increased hours of operation and visit! Bring your friends and family and tell your neighbors to visit. The next month will also be your last chance to visit the Museum in the Old High School.

## **Help Us Grow Membership**

Please also tell other people interested in Eudora's History to join the Historical Society. There is a membership form attached. Please also take this chance to pay your dues for 2011 if you have not already.

## **Get Involved**

Please feel free to visit the Museum or contact Ben if you wish to become more involved. We could always use help from members. We could use help accessioning items, as well as collecting information relating to the archives and artifacts. Other ways in which you can help the EAHS include conducting historical research, helping with community outreach or helping plan events and programs.

## **Donate Artifacts and Archives**

If you have any objects of historic significance relating to Eudora or the Eudora Township, please consider donating them to the Historical Society. Your donation will allow for other Eudorans now, and generations from now a chance to learn from the historic items.

## EAHS Elections

The first EAHS meeting of the year was held on March 17. The Officers and Directors elected for the year 2011 are as follows:

### Officers:

President: Glenn Wineinger  
Vice President: *vacant*  
Treasurer: Jim Harris  
Secretary: Leonard Hollmann

### Area Directors:

Clearfield: John More  
Eudora: *vacant*  
Fall Leaf: Lorene Cox  
Hesper: Martha Harris  
Prairie Center: Steve Neis  
Weaver: Eva Bell Gerstenberger

## Treasurer's Report

Funds of the EAHS as of March 17, 2011:

Checking	\$1,016
Savings	\$3,379
Total:	\$4,395

## Message from the President

I have enjoyed serving as your President and I will continue to enjoy being your President for this upcoming year. I would like to thank the City and Ben Terwilliger for their support. I look forward to many more years with the Eudora Area Historical Society.

Thank you,  
*Glenn Wineinger*  
President

## Programs for 2011

### Tour of Fall Leaf School

May 19, 6:00pm. Meet at City Hall.

We will first meet at City Hall then drive to Fall Leaf, which is located in Leavenworth County just over the Kaw. Don Huggins will show members of the EAHS the renovation work that has been done to this schoolhouse. Feel free to bring refreshments, but refreshments will also be served. Make sure to come to Fall Leaf, enjoy the Spring scenery and marvel the restoration process of this nearly one hundred year old structure.

### Tour of Hopewell Church

July 21, 7:00pm. Meet at City Hall.

We will first meet at City Hall then drive to Hopewell, which is several miles southeast of Eudora. The Knabes will show us a church that has recently been moved and renovated.

### Clearfield

September 15, 7:30pm. City Hall.

John More will present about the history of Clearfield, a small community several miles south of Eudora.

### TBA

November 17, 7:30pm. City Hall.

The November program has yet to be developed. We will let the members know the details of the program as soon as we know them.

The EAHS will also be open and have presentations during the **CPA Picnic** in July and **Eudorafest** in October.

## Historical Artifacts Spotlight

### Wood Bowling Balls



These two wooden bowling balls were used at what was perhaps Eudora's first bowling alley in the 1880s. A single wooden bowling lane was located within the Eudora Mineral Springs Resort, which was located at 10<sup>th</sup> and Cedar by the Wakarusa River. The Eudora Mineral Springs Resort offered a variety of entertainment during its brief existence. The bowling lane continued to be used by residents even after the Resort was closed, sold, and used for other purposes.

### Trowel



This trowel belonged to John F. Schulz and was used for laying bricks during the construction of the Salem Chapel Church in 1870. Schulz brought the trowel to the United States from Germany when he immigrated to the US in the 1840s. The left side of this tool is noticeably more worn than the right side. The left side is so worn is because Schulz was left handed.

### Civil War and Kansas Sesquicentennial

While Eudora may have celebrated its own sesquicentennial four years ago, there are two important sesquicentennials we are celebrating this year. Kansas entered the Union on January 29, 1861 and the Civil War started on April 12, 1861. The Watkins Museum in Lawrence will have a program this August in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Civil War. The new Director at Watkins, Steve Nowak, has graciously asked for the EAHS to participate in this event. We will present on how the Civil War impacted Eudora. Many significant events happened around the Eudora Township during Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War. If you have any suggestions about what we should include with our presentation/exhibit, please feel free to share.

### Facebook/Increased Web Presence

The EAHS now has a Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account, please "like" us. Simply type Eudora Area Historical Society in the search bar to find us. It is hoped that the EAHS will have its own webpage linked with the City's website before long. Growing the web presence of the EAHS should be a top priority, for it is one of the best ways to reach a wide audience.

